

Editorial

We offer our heartfelt thanks to Mr. S. N. A. Jacobs who has for more than 20 years been Registrar, and who feels it is now time a younger man takes on this duty. We therefore have pleasure in welcoming Mr. Paul Sokoloff who has kindly agreed to act as the new Registrar, to whom all changes of address, and enquiries regarding back numbers, Volumes and Sets should be addressed as indicated on the inner back cover of the magazine.

Practical Hints — July

To breed the Silver-washed Fritillary (*Argynnis paphia* L.) from the egg, I put a captured female in a large wooden box, the top covered with netting, and containing two or three jam jars with water and flowers of red valerian (*Kentranthus ruber*). The insect imbibes from the flowers and lays her eggs readily upon them. White valerian should not be used as the eggs are then so much more difficult to see. When the young larvae hatch in August, gently brush them into a small plastic box containing pieces of bark and netting. Leave them there for about two weeks at room temperature to settle down. Then put them into a refrigerator (about 38°F) where they are left undisturbed until March, when I empty them out onto potted violets or pansies and netted over. I have tried this method for two winters with about 90% of the larvae surviving each time. (REVELS).

Larvae of *Hadena caesia mananii* Gregson (The Grey) leave the seed pods fairly soon and begin to disperse. In July it is profitable to gather large bunches of *Silene* from which many *H. conspersa* D. & S. (Marbled Coronet) will appear along with a few *H. caesia*. Most of my collecting has had to be done in August when they are very hard to find, rarely under or among their foodplant, but in chinks of rocks, or under other herbage, though they may be found on the *Silene* at night. Pupae are widely dispersed and almost impossible. The moth needs to be bred as it wears quickly. I have taken it in Cos. Clare, Kerry, Cork, also in Skye, Canna, Mull, Islay and the Isle of Man. I was the first to find it in Clare, Skye and Mull. I failed to find it in Northern Ireland, where it must be. (A. RICHARDSON).

Early July is a good time to try for the Olive Crescent (*Trisateles emortualis* D. & S.) in its few known haunts in the Chilterns. The moth comes to light and an eye should also be kept open for the Rufous Minor (*Oligia versicolor* Borkh.). This can only be determined by the genitalia but in the Chil-

terns at least the presence of a rust-coloured thoracic tuft is a good indication that one has not boxed the commoner *O. strigilis* L. Other visitors at the same time may well include the Green Arches (*Anaplectoides prasina* D. & S.) and the Large Twin-spot Carpet (*Xanthorrhoe quadrifasiata* Clerck). Females of both species should be kept for eggs. The former may be persuaded to produce a second brood the same year but larvae of the Carpet need to be hibernated. This may be done by resting them on woodwool either in a W. & D. breeding cylinder or in a roomy plastic box. Occasional gentle spraying throughout the winter is advisable to prevent dessication, although in the case of larvae kept in a plastic container, it might be preferable to insert the occasional dock leaf to maintain humidity (CHATELAIN).

During July and August I beat about 60 larvae of *Eupithecia dodoneata* Guenée (Oak-tree Pug) from hawthorn over a wide area of central Lincolnshire, but most were parasitized. The wasps emerged within days of spinning their tiny white cocoons and appeared to be the same insect that attacks *E. insigniata* Hbn. (Pinion-spotted Pug) (HAGGETT).

Fullfed larvae of *Colobochyla salicalis* D. & S. (Lesser Belle) seem to need small angle-branches of aspen, on which to make their cocoons (A. RICHARDSON).

During the third week of July we took numbers of the distinctive Tortricoid *Eucosma maritima* H. & W. flying at dusk round clumps of *Artemisia maritima* at the edges of salterns at Camber, Sussex, and later that night swept it from the same plants. It also occurs in similar situations in Kent and Essex, and is recorded from Norfolk and Suffolk (CHALMERS-HUNT).

A visit in late July to a stretch of river bank or waste ground on which tansy is growing may produce *Platyptilia ochrodactyla* D. & S., which sometimes sits on the flowers, and *Dichrorampha flavidorsana* Knaggs which is readily disturbed from the plants. *D. simpliciana* Haw. may similarly be put up from mugwort and can be distinguished from other species of the genus by its broader wing shape (R. G. WARREN).

Late June and early July is the time for the full-grown larva of the local *Agonopterix putridella* D. & S. which occurs in spun leaves of *Peucedanum officinale* in its restricted localities in Kent and Essex. Towards the end of July you may readily obtain the moth by using a bee-smoker, but it needs two—one to operate the smoker and the other to net. The insect hides in thick grass and other vegetation among the foodplant. (CHALMERS-HUNT).

The Common Spike-rush (*Eleocharis palustris*) frequents ditches and the margins of ponds, is generally distributed and common in the British Isles, and should be swept by day for the moths of *Bactra furfurana* Haworth and the more local *Monochroa lucidella* Stephens, both of which sometimes occur together in numbers (CHALMERS-HUNT).